

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1, 3-9, 11 and 12, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended, Claims 11 and 12 have been added, and Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled herein.

Basis for added Claim 11 is found in original Claims 1 and 2; and at page 2, line 27 through page 3, line 21, and page 5, lines 2-3 of the specification. Added Claim 11 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 2. Basis for added Claim 12 is found in original Claims 1 and 10; and at page 2, line 27 through page 3, line 21, and page 6, lines 17-23 of the specification. Added Claim 12 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 10.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,695,699 (**Naritomi**). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks.

The method of Applicant's claims involves injecting **simultaneously** thermoplastic material into at least two coexisting **separate cavities** that are separated one from the other by at least one base body that is placed in the mold. See Applicant's Claim 1.

Naritomi does not disclose injecting thermoplastic material simultaneously into at least two separate cavities. Naritomi discloses a heterogeneous foam injection molding method in which a primary injection molded part (e.g., 32) is placed in a mold, which together with the mold defines a secondary initial cavity (e.g., 35). A secondary molding material (that is different than the molding material of the primary molded part) is then injected into the secondary initial cavity (e.g., 35). A secondary final cavity (e.g., 36) is then formed by withdrawing mold elements (e.g., 16) from the secondary initial cavity (e.g., 35), and then the charged secondary molding material is foamed within the larger volume secondary final cavity. See column 2, lines 10-22, and Figures 11-13 of Naritomi.

Applicant wishes to point out with reference to Figures 11-13 of Naritomi, that the secondary initial cavity (35) is a **single annular cavity** that defines shock-absorbing wheel (43) of bicycle wheel (41) (see Figure 14, sheet 5 of 15). In Naritomi's method, the primary molded part (32) / (wheel body 42) does not separate two separate cavities, it merely serves to define (in part) a single annular cavity (35).

As mentioned previously herein, the method of Applicant's claims involves the simultaneous injection of thermoplastic material into at least two coexisting **separate cavities**.

Naritomi discloses the **subsequent injection** of plastic materials into **sequentially formed cavities** in his process. See Figures 4-9, and column 5, line 62 through column 7, line 10 of Naritomi. Naritomi does not disclose the simultaneous injection of thermoplastic materials into separate and coexisting cavities.

In addition, Applicant wishes to point out that Naritomi does not disclose a process that results in the formation of a composite body that includes at least one first thermoplastic part and at least one second thermoplastic part each of which is joined to at least one base body. The process disclosed by Naritomi results in the formation of first and second molded parts that are bonded to each other. The process of Applicant's claims results in the formation of a composite body that includes at least one first thermoplastic part and at least one second thermoplastic part each of which is joined to at least one base body.

In light of the preceding remarks, Applicant's claims are deemed to be unanticipated by and patentable over Naritomi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Naritomi in view of United States Patent No. 5,658,041 (**Girardot et al**). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the following remarks.

Naritomi has been discussed previously herein and discloses a heterogeneous foam injection molding method, in which a plastic material is injected into a single cavity (e.g., annular cavity 35 of Figures 11-13) that is then volumetrically expanded by the withdrawal of mold elements, followed by foaming of the plastic material therein. In addition, Naritomi discloses the subsequent injection of plastic materials into sequentially formed cavities in another embodiment of his process (see for example Figures 4-9). Naritomi does not disclose, teach or suggest the method of Applicant's claims which involves injecting simultaneously thermoplastic material into at least two coexisting separate cavities that are separated one from the other by at least one base body that is placed in the mold.

Further, and as discussed previously herein, Naritomi does not disclose, teach or suggest a process that results in the formation of a composite body that includes at least one first thermoplastic part and at least one second thermoplastic part each of which is joined to at least one base body.

Girardot et al disclose a motor vehicle front body panel that is prepared by over-molding a rigid metal cross-member (1) with a plastic (e.g., polyamide) that may be filled with reinforcing fibers. See the abstract; column 3, lines 50-62; and column 4, lines 28-334 of Girardot et al.

Naritomi discloses a heterogeneous foam injection method. Girardot et al discloses an over-molding method that does not make use of foamed plastic. As such, neither Naritomi nor Girardot et al provide the requisite disclosure that would motivate a skilled artisan to combine or otherwise modify their respective disclosures.

Even if Naritomi and Girardot et al were combined, Applicant's claimed method would not result therefrom. As discussed previously herein, Naritomi does not disclose, teach or suggest a method of preparing a composite molded article that includes simultaneously injecting thermoplastic material into at least two coexisting separate cavities that are separated one from the other by at least one base body that is placed in the mold. Girardot et al merely discloses the preparation of a motor vehicle front body panel by means of an over-molding process. As such, Girardot et al does not cure the deficiencies of Naritomi with regard to arriving at Applicant's claimed process.

In light of the preceding remarks, Applicant's claims are deemed to be unobvious and patentable over Naritomi in view of Girardot et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

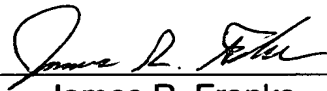
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter as to Claims 2-4 and 10 on page 4 of the Office Action of 14 October 2003. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, these claims have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In particular, independent Claim 11 has been added, and is a combination of original Claims 1 and 2. Claim 2 has been cancelled herein. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended such that they are each dependent on added Claim 11.

Independent Claim 12 has been added, and is a combination of original Claims 1 and 10. Claim 10 has been cancelled herein.

The references made of record by the Examiner (in form PTO-892), but not relied upon in the Office Action of 14 October 2003, are considered by the Applicant to be no more material to the present case than those references already submitted to and considered by the Office in the present case.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicant's presently pending claims are deemed to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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